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Thea Stilton

THE THEA SISTERS AND THE MYSTERY AT SEA



Thea Stilton

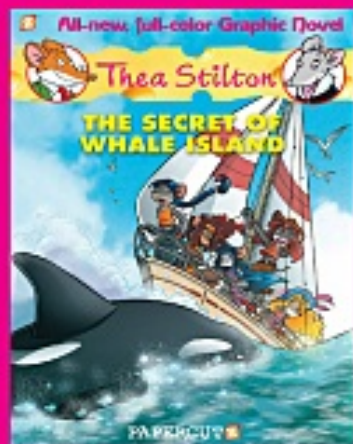


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Thea Stilton

THE THEA SISTERS AND THE MYSTERY AT SEA!

By Thea Stilton



PAPERCUT ™

New York

THE THEA SISTERS AND THE MYSTERY AT SEA!

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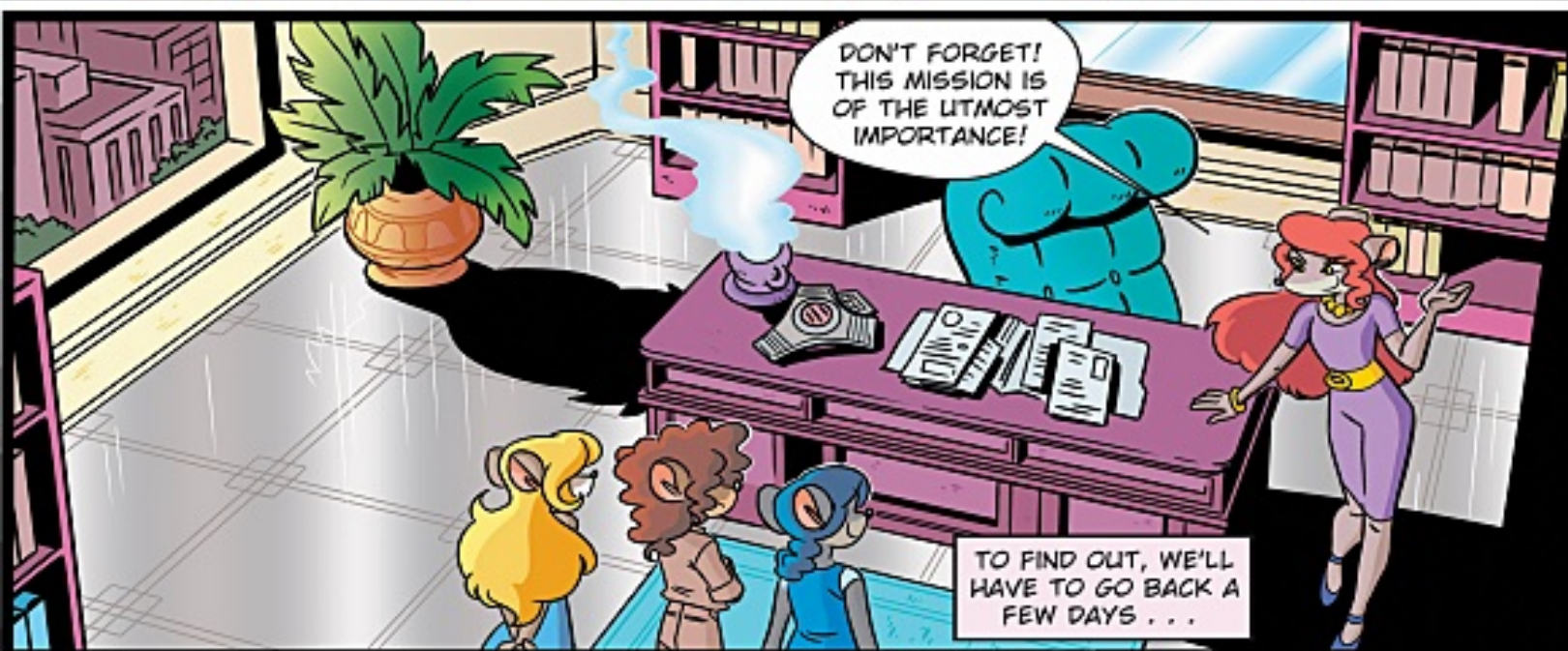
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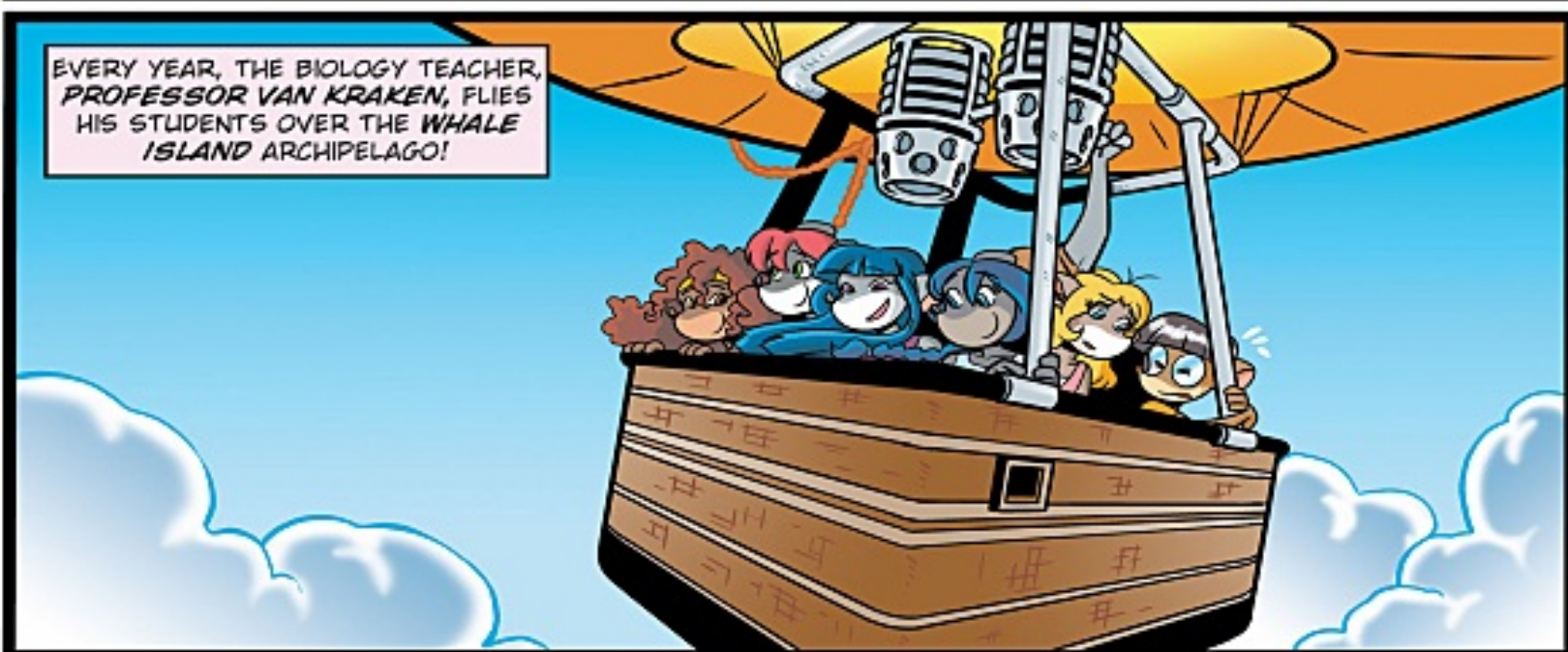
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... TO THE DAY OF THE HOT-AIR BALLOON RIDE ARRANGED BY MOUSEFORD ACADEMY!



EVERY YEAR, THE BIOLOGY TEACHER, PROFESSOR VAN KRAKEN, FLIES HIS STUDENTS OVER THE WHALE ISLAND ARCHIPELAGO!

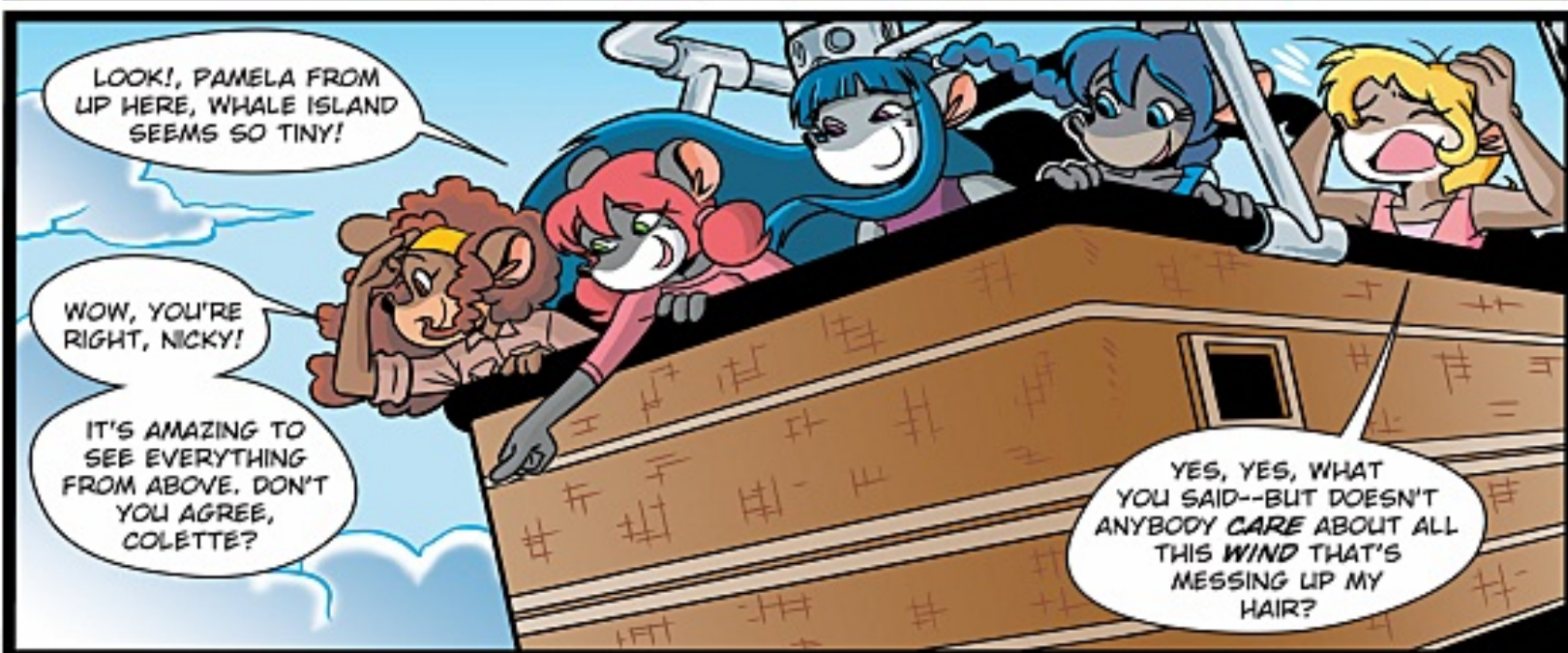


LOOK!, PAMELA FROM UP HERE, WHALE ISLAND SEEMS SO TINY!

WOW, YOU'RE RIGHT, NICKY!

IT'S AMAZING TO SEE EVERYTHING FROM ABOVE. DON'T YOU AGREE, COLETTE?

YES, YES, WHAT YOU SAID--BUT DOESN'T ANYBODY CARE ABOUT ALL THIS WIND THAT'S MESSING UP MY HAIR?







SOON...



I'VE CHANGED MY MIND. I THINK I'M REALLY AFRAID NOW!

KEEP CALM, SHEN. I HAVE EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL. IT'LL BE A TOP-NOTCH EMERGENCY LANDING!

ARE YOU SURE THIS WAS A GOOD IDEA, GIRLS? WE'RE DROPPING PRETTY FAST!

IT'LL BE A LITTLE ROCKY, BUT EVERYTHING'LL BE OKAY!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "IT'LL BE A LITTLE ROCKY?"

AAAHH!

THUMP







"THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I INTEND TO DO, VANILLA. RICHARD'S STOLEN THE PLACE I DESERVE AS MAKEUP MONARCH TOO MANY TIMES!"



THIS YEAR, THE AWARD FOR THE BUSINESS-RODENT OF THE YEAR GOES TO . . . **RICHARD MALEFACTOR!**



THANK YOU, MY ESTEEMED COLLEAGUES. IT'S A TRUE PLEASURE TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD, THE FINAL PROOF--AS IF ANY WERE NEEDED--

--OF MY UNDISPUTED SUPREMACY!



COSMETICS ARE MY WORLD, AND MY COSMETICS MAKE THE WORLD BEAUTIFUL!

"NOW THAT HIS TRASH HAS SPOILED THIS BEACH, I HAVE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY!"

WHILE I CERTAINLY DON'T INTEND TO EXPLOIT THIS SITUATION, IT'S MY DUTY TO STEP IN AND PROTECT THIS MARVELOUS SITE.

SOME PEOPLE MAY THINK THAT RICHARD MALEFACTOR IS BEHIND THIS DISTASTEFUL INCIDENT, BUT I KNOW THAT CANNOT BE SO.

RICHARD IS A RESPECTED COLLEAGUE OF MINE, AND HE WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING LIKE THIS!

THAT'S WHY I'VE COME HERE IN PERSON TO ANNOUNCE THAT I'M STEPPING IN TO EXPOSE THE REAL CULPRIT!

WHAT A NOBLE GESTURE!

HURRAH, MS. DE VISSEN!

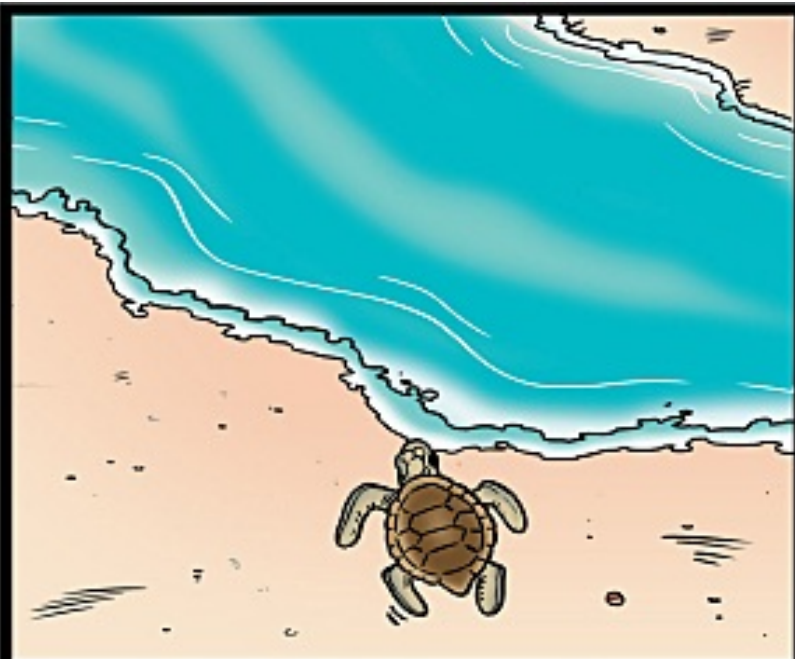
AND NOT JUST ME! I'LL PUT ALL MY RESOURCES AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE WHOLE ISLAND COMMUNITY TO CLEAN UP THE BEACH!

WHAT DO YOU THINK, GIRLS?

I DON'T KNOW . . . A GESTURE LIKE THIS FROM VISSIA IS COMPLETELY UNEXPECTED.

FWUSH

?



NICKY, COME WITH ME!



WHAT'S UP, VIOLET?

YOU'LL SEE...



SEE, THERE'S AT LEAST ONE LITTLE GUY HERE.



AND HE HAS COMPANY!







AND SO . . .

WHERE'D
YOU TWO
GET TO?

WE FOUND THE
TURTLES! THEY'RE HIDING
IN A SEA GROTTO NOT
FAR FROM HERE!

I THINK WE SHOULD
FOLLOW THEM. I WANT
TO CHECK THAT
THEY'RE SAFE!

YOU'RE RIGHT, NICKY,
BUT I CAN'T LET YOU
GO BY YOURSELF! I'LL
GO WITH YOU.

WHAT'LL WE DO ABOUT
VISSIA? IN SPITE OF HOW
IT LOOKS, I STILL DON'T
TRUST HER!

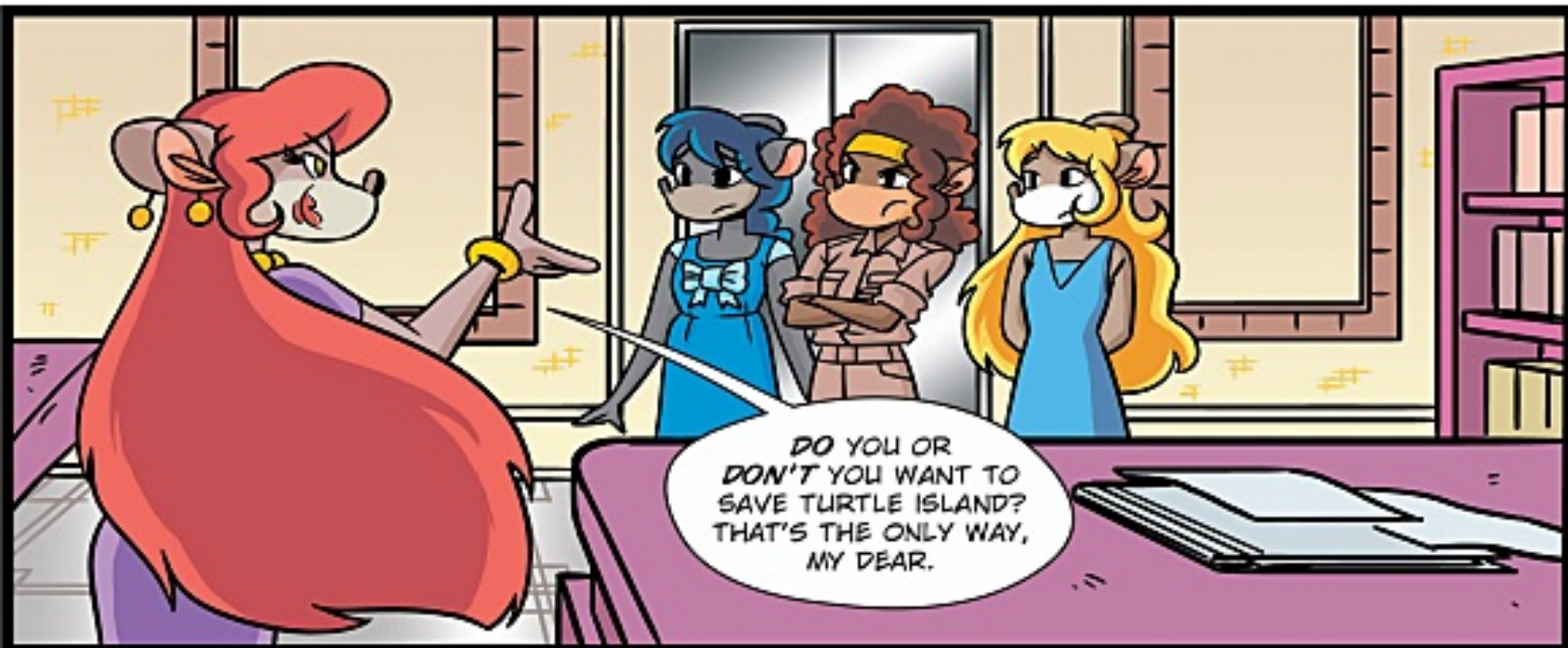
NOW REMEMBER, FOLKS:
MY LOVE OF NATURE
NEEDS TO SHOW
CLEARLY IN THESE
PICTURES!

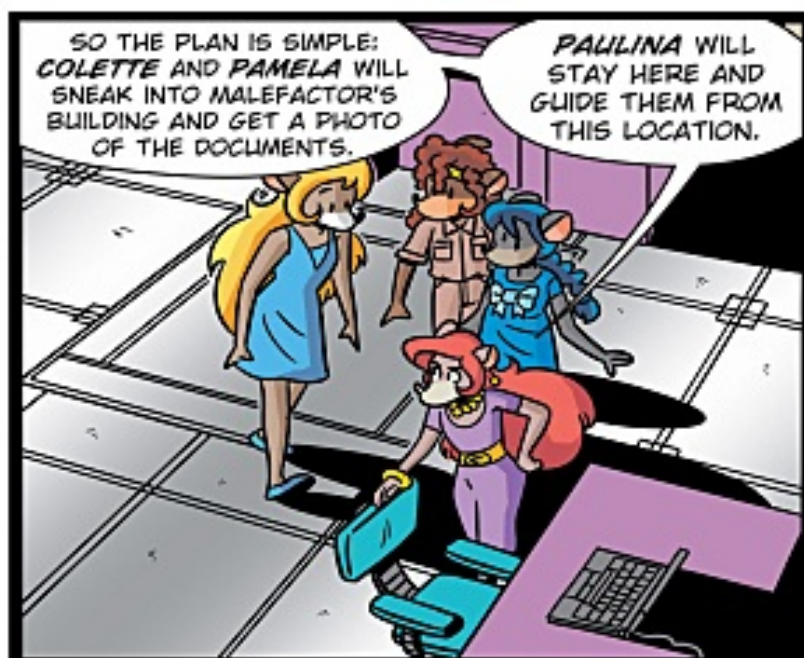








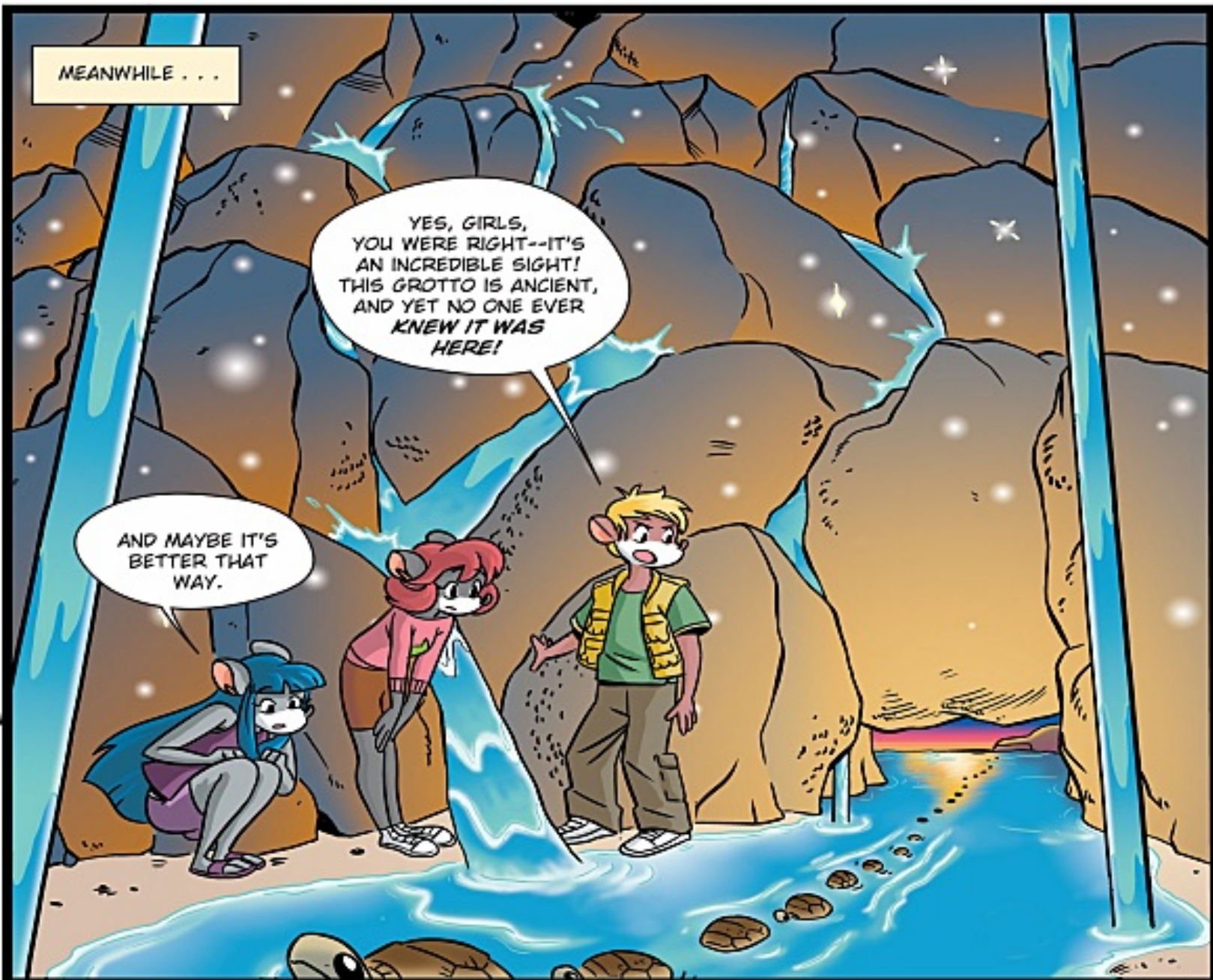




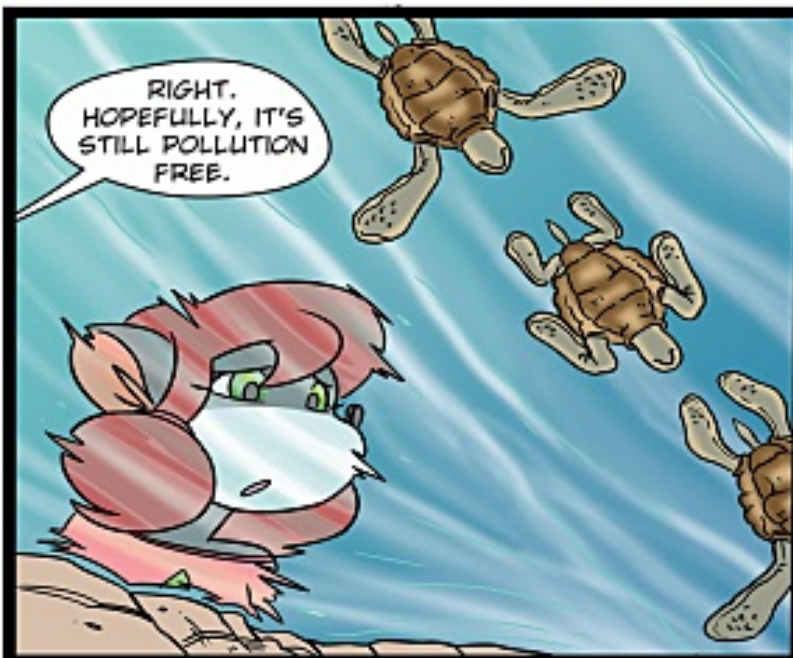
MEANWHILE . . .

YES, GIRLS,
YOU WERE RIGHT--IT'S
AN INCREDIBLE SIGHT!
THIS GROTTO IS ANCIENT,
AND YET NO ONE EVER
**KNEW IT WAS
HERE!**

AND MAYBE IT'S
BETTER THAT
WAY.



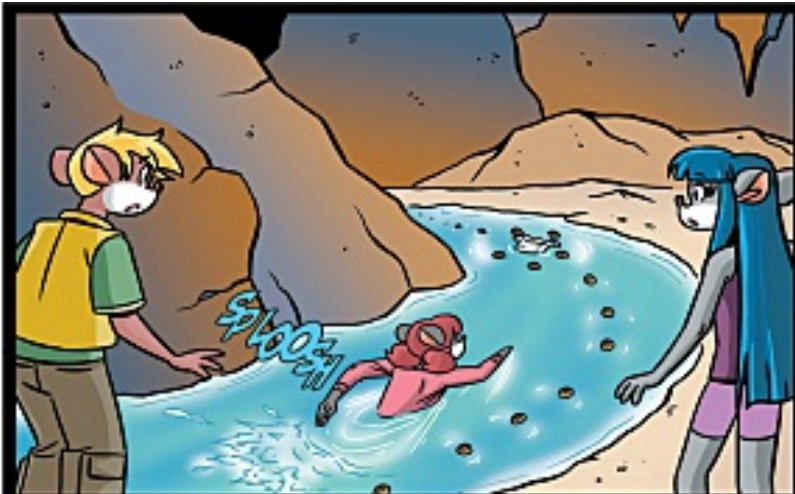
RIGHT.
HOPEFULLY, IT'S
STILL POLLUTION
FREE.



THERE'S
ONLY ONE WAY
TO FIND OUT--
EXPLORE IT!







WHILE PROFESSOR VAN KRAKEN, NICKY, AND VIOLET TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE GROTTO, AN IMPORTANT SPY MISSION IS ABOUT TO BEGIN . . .

SO, WHAT DO YOU SAY? ARE YOU WITH ME?

YES, MS. DE VISSSEN!

READY FOR MISSION TURTLE RESCUE!

GOOD. LIKE EVERY SELF-RESPECTING SECRET AGENT, YOU'LL NEED TO DISGUISE YOURSELVES. I'VE ALREADY THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING.

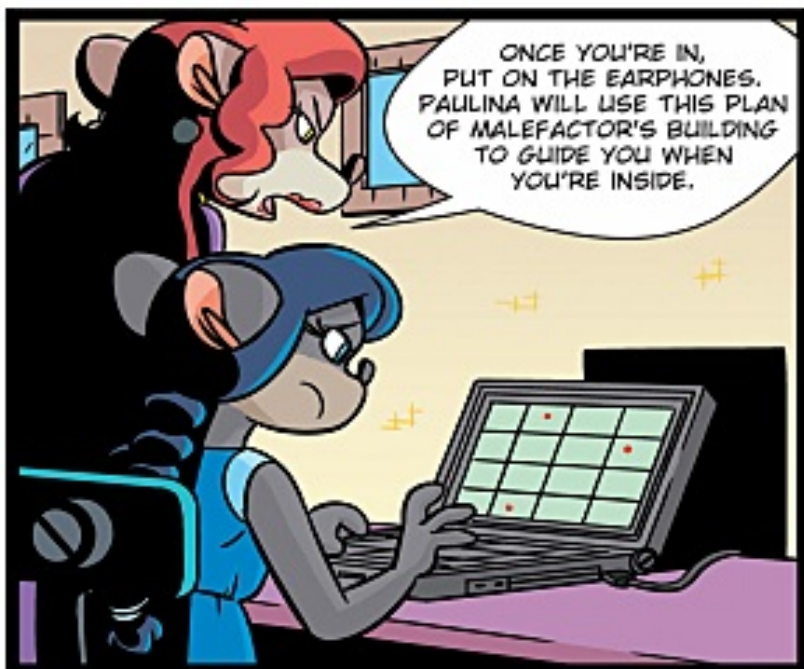
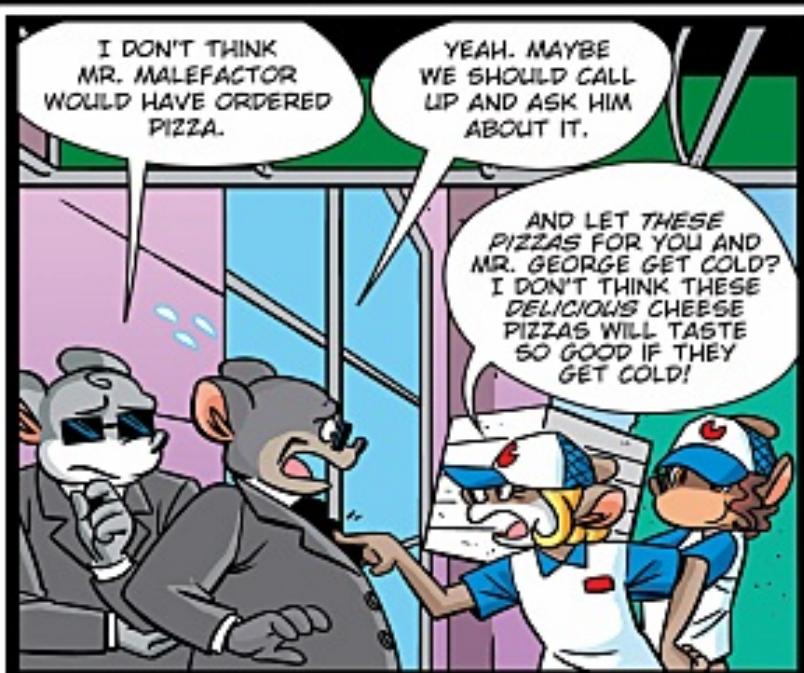
WHAT?! WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DELIVER . . . PIZZAS?

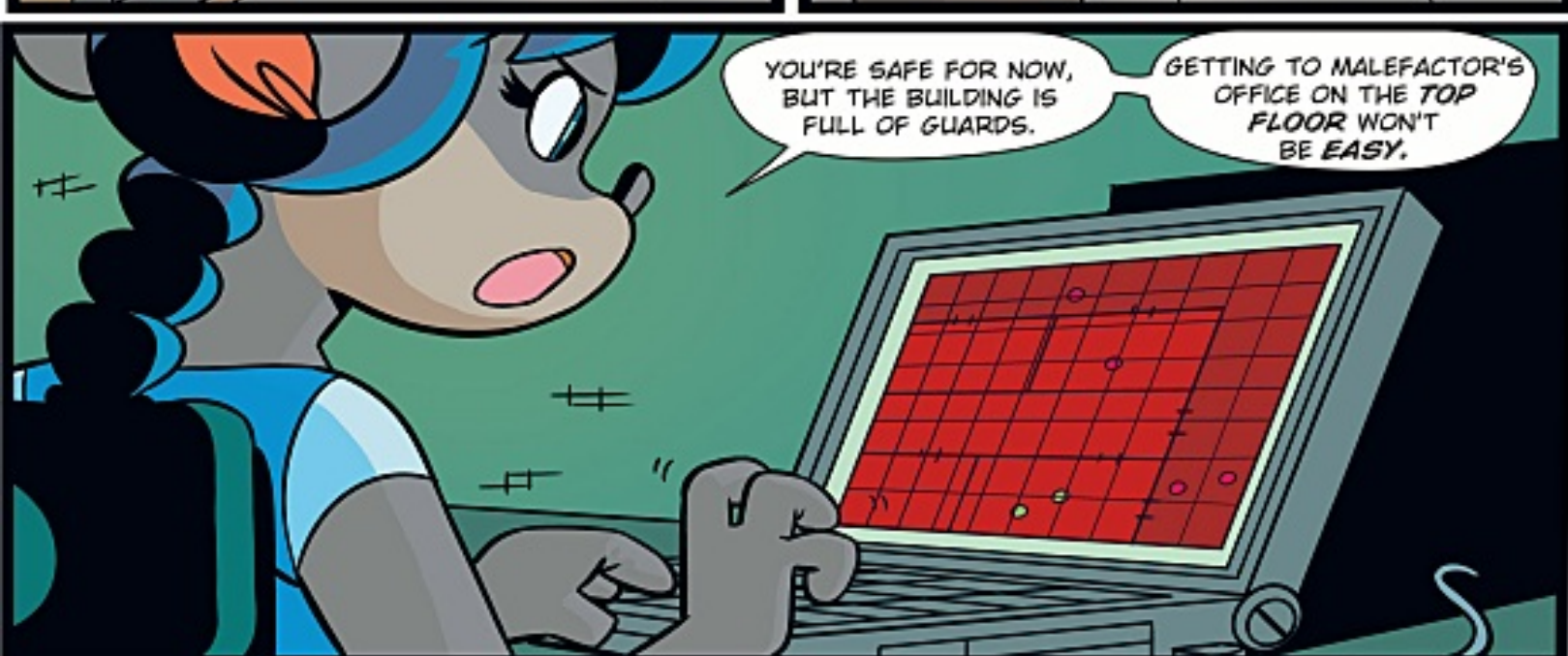
HEH HEH!

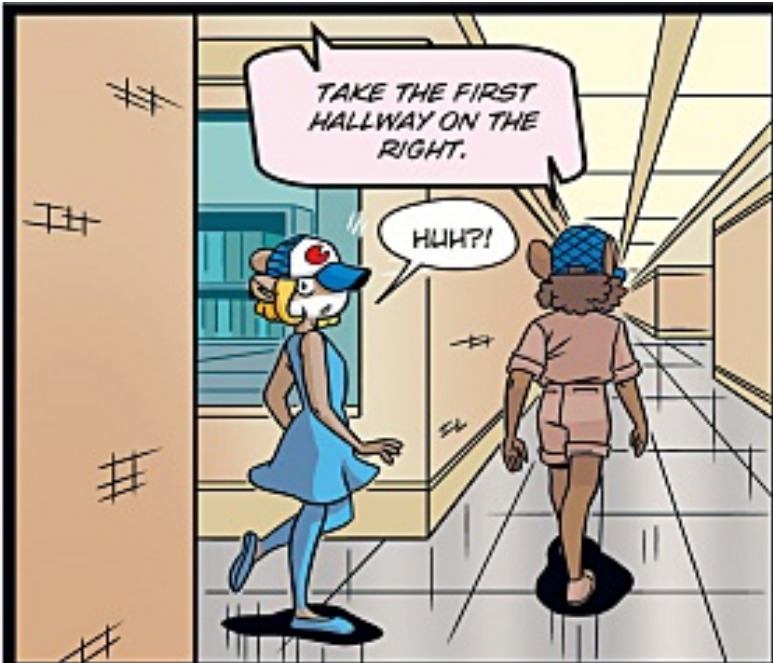
IT'S JUST A COVER SO YOU CAN GET IN. ONCE YOU'RE INSIDE, YOU CAN USE THESE **EARPHONES** TO COMMUNICATE WITH **PAULINA** AND FOLLOW HER **DIRECTIONS**.

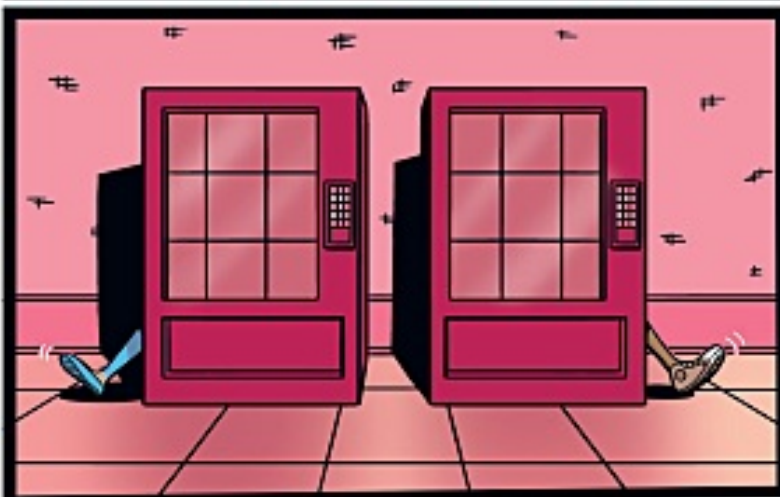
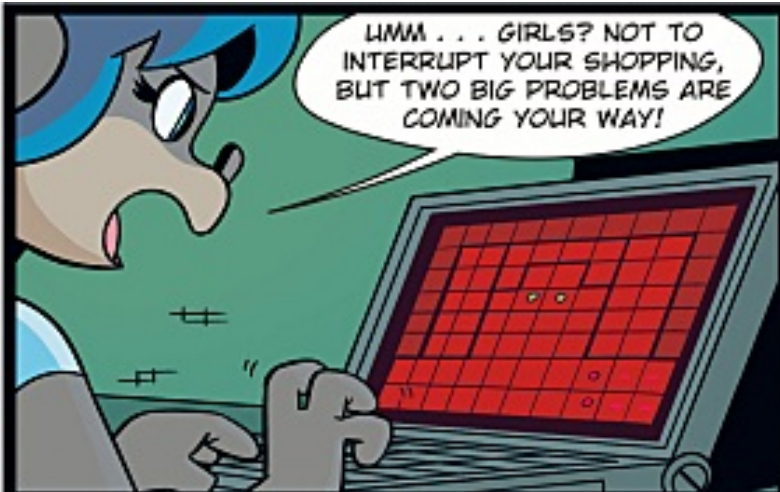
WHAT'S THE PLAN?

OH, IT'S VERY SIMPLE . . .













MEANWHILE . . .

WHOOSH
WHOOSH

WHAT
WAS THAT?
DID YOU HEAR
SOMETHING?

YES,
SOMEONE'S
FOLLOWING
US!

LET'S
HIDE BEHIND
THIS ROCK!

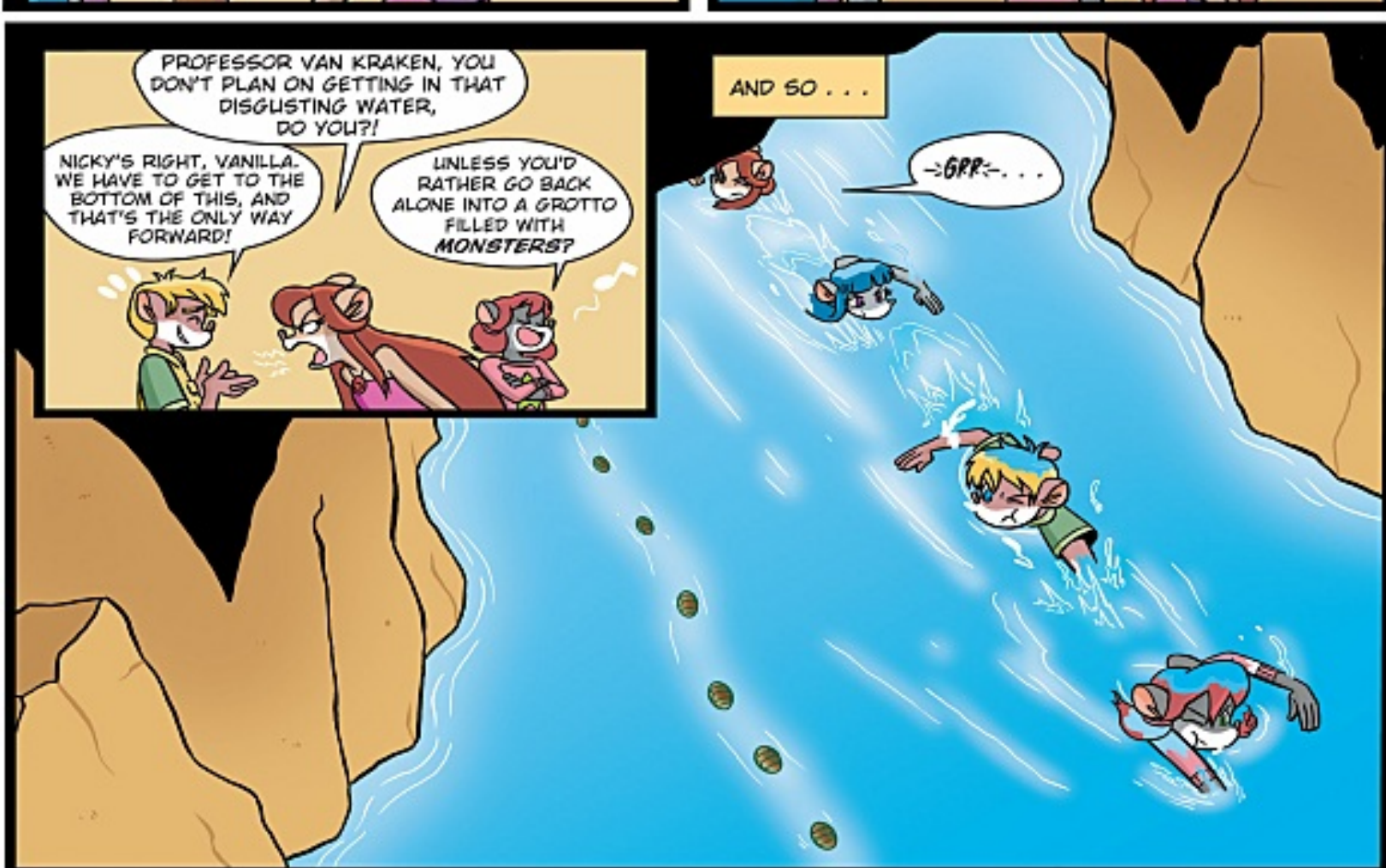
WHAT
DO WE
DO?

WAIT UNTIL THEY
GET PAST THE ROCK.
WE'LL TAKE THEM BY
SURPRISE!

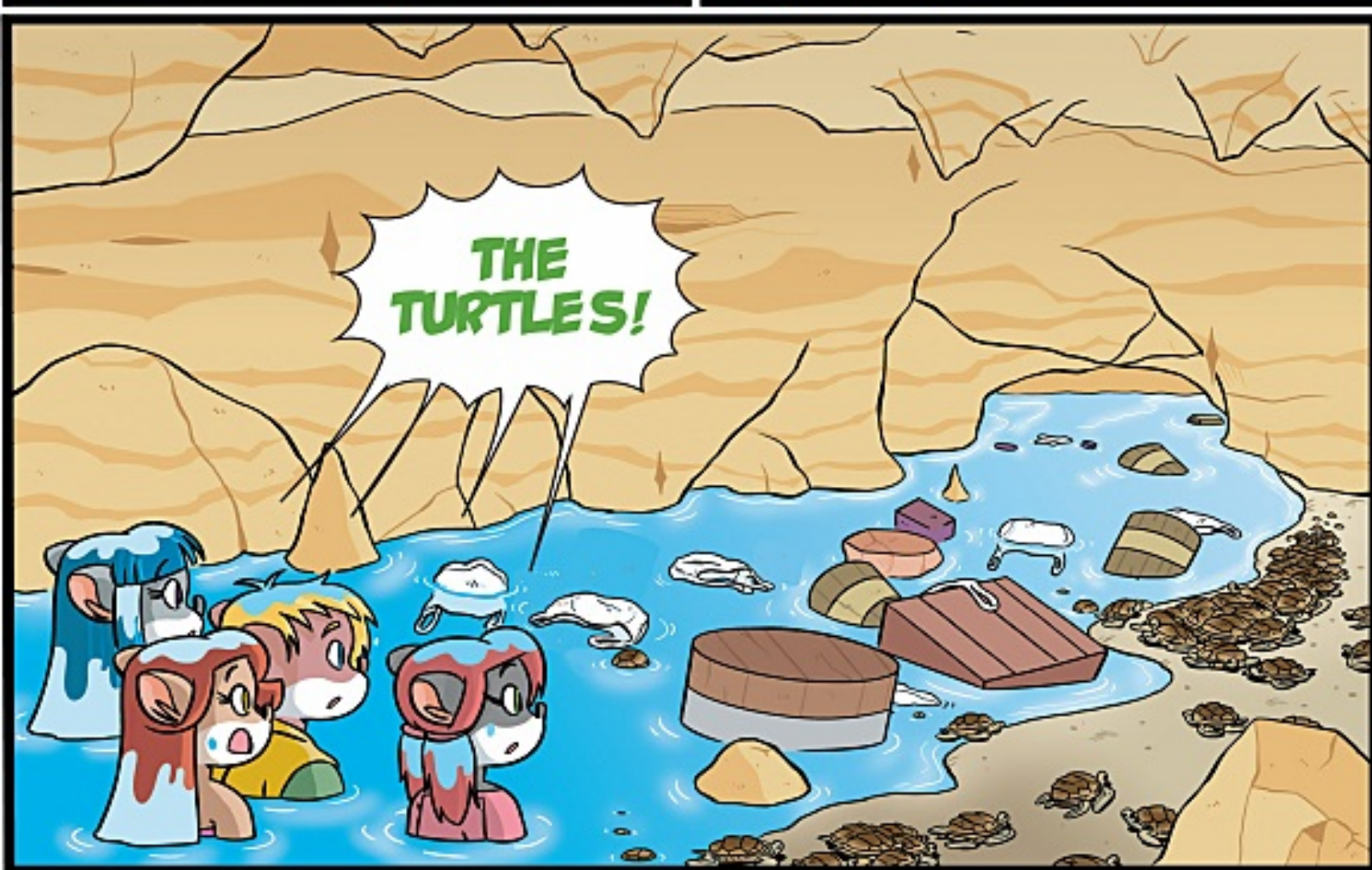
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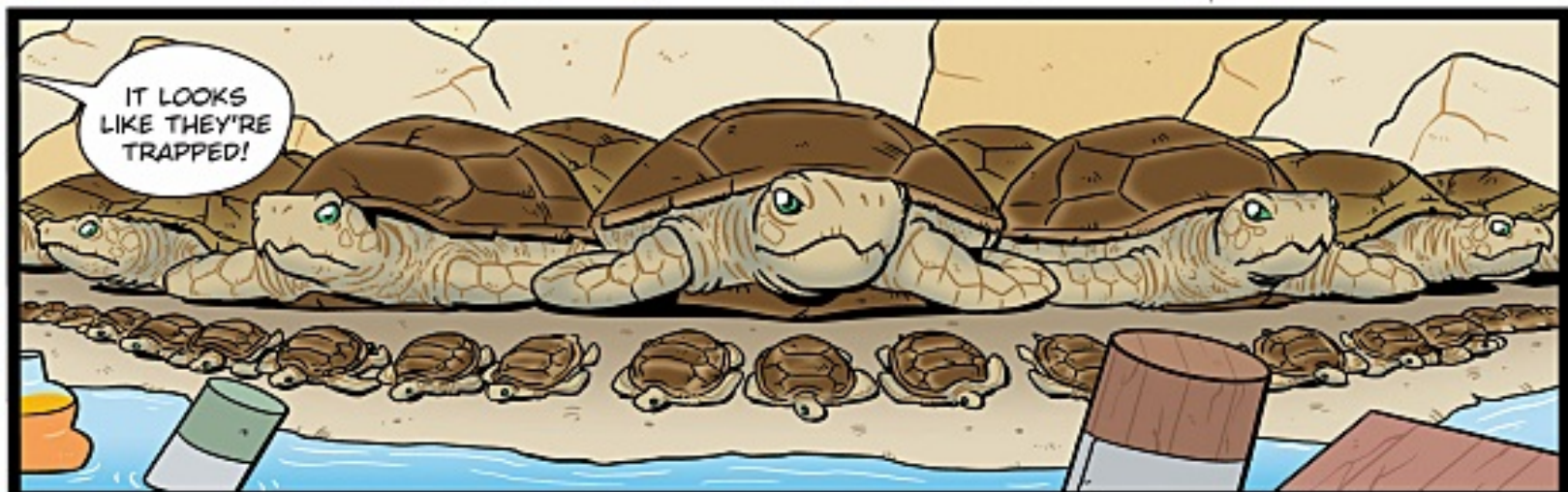
AAAAH!
AAAAH!











YOU ARE MY HERO! I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A HUGE FAN OF QUALITY COSMETICS LIKE YOURS! MY PARENTS SAY THEY THOUGHT THE FIRST WORD I SAID WOULD BE MAMA BUT IT WAS MAKEUP KIT!

OH, WELL, THAT'S--

AND YOU, TOO, MR. GEORGE! I'M SURE MR. MALEFACTOR WOULDN'T BE THE SUCCESSFUL RODENT HE IS WITHOUT YOU AT HIS SIDE!

YOU MEAN YOU'VE ACTUALLY NOTICED? SOMETIMES I WONDER IF ANYONE EVER EVEN SEES ME.

ABSOLUTELY WE DO! BUT, UM, I JUST REMEMBERED, WE HAVE A COMMITMENT ELSEWHERE AND WE SHOULD BE--

NOW, PAM!

GEORGE, WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR? FOLLOW THOSE GIRLS! I WANT THEY TOOK A PICTURE OF MY DOCUMENTS!

QUICK! QUICK! PAULINA, ARE YOU THERE?





IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT,
SOMEONE ON A SHIP GETS
THE PHONE CALL . . .

DON'T WORRY,
MR. MALEFACTOR.
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF
IT RIGHT AWAY!

SET COURSE
FOR TURTLE ISLAND!
WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE
THE AREA IS CLEAR!

RIGHT AWAY,
CAPTAIN!



BUT ONCE NEAR
THE ISLAND . . .

THAT'S NOT
RIGHT!

IT MUST'VE
BEEN THE TIDES,
CAPTAIN . . .



. . . THAT PULLED
THE JETSAW OUT OF
THE GROTTO!

HURRY! THOSE
BUSYBODIES WILL BE
HERE ANY MINUTE!

BUT
WHAT'LL WE DO,
CAPTAIN?

DROP ANCHOR
AND START THE
FORWARD ENGINES.
IT WON'T TAKE
LONG!



MEANWHILE, INSIDE
THE GROTTO . . .

COME ON, GIRLS!
JUST A LITTLE MORE
EFFORT AND WE'LL
BE THERE!

IF WE HAD
TWO MORE PAWS TO
HELP WE'D ALREADY
BE FINISHED!

OH,
VANILLA?

DON'T EVEN
THINK ABOUT IT.
I'M NOT HERE
TO WORK!

NO
KIDDING!

SHH, GIRLS--
DID YOU HEAR
THAT?

IKROOM

IT SOUNDS
LIKE . . . A
SHIP'S ENGINES!
COULD IT BE OUR
FRIENDS?

IKROOM

UM . . . I'D SAY
DEFINITELY NOT!

MORE
TRASH?

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
DO THEY THINK THIS
PLACE IS A DUMP?



HEY, YOU OUT THERE!
DO YOU HEAR ME?! WE'RE
IN HERE! COME HERE AND
GET US, RIGHT NOW!

IT'S USELESS,
VANILLA. THEY CAN'T
HEAR US OUT THERE.
AND MAYBE THAT'S A
GOOD THING . . .



"... JUST THINK OF
HOW MUCH DAMAGE
THEY COULD DO TO
THIS GROTTO!"

ISN'T WHAT
WE'RE DOING
DANGEROUS?

ON THE
CONTRARY!



WE'RE
PROTECTING
MR. MALEFACTOR.

AND PROTECTING HIM
MEANS PROTECTING
OURSELVES!



WE CAN'T
DO THIS ALONE!
THERE'S TOO MUCH
GARBAGE!

VANILLA! ARE YOU
GOING TO DO THE
RIGHT THING AND
GIVE US A
HAND?

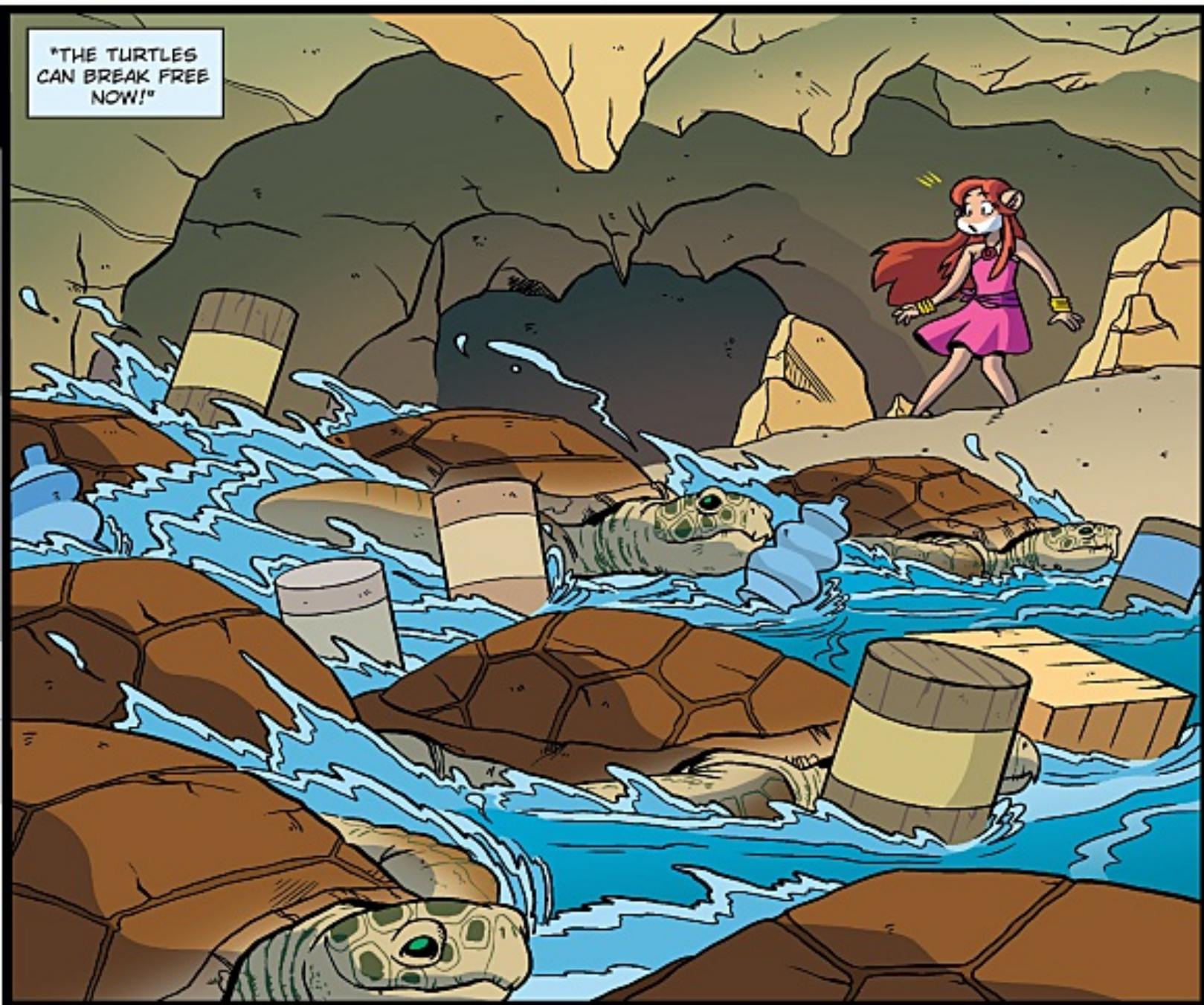


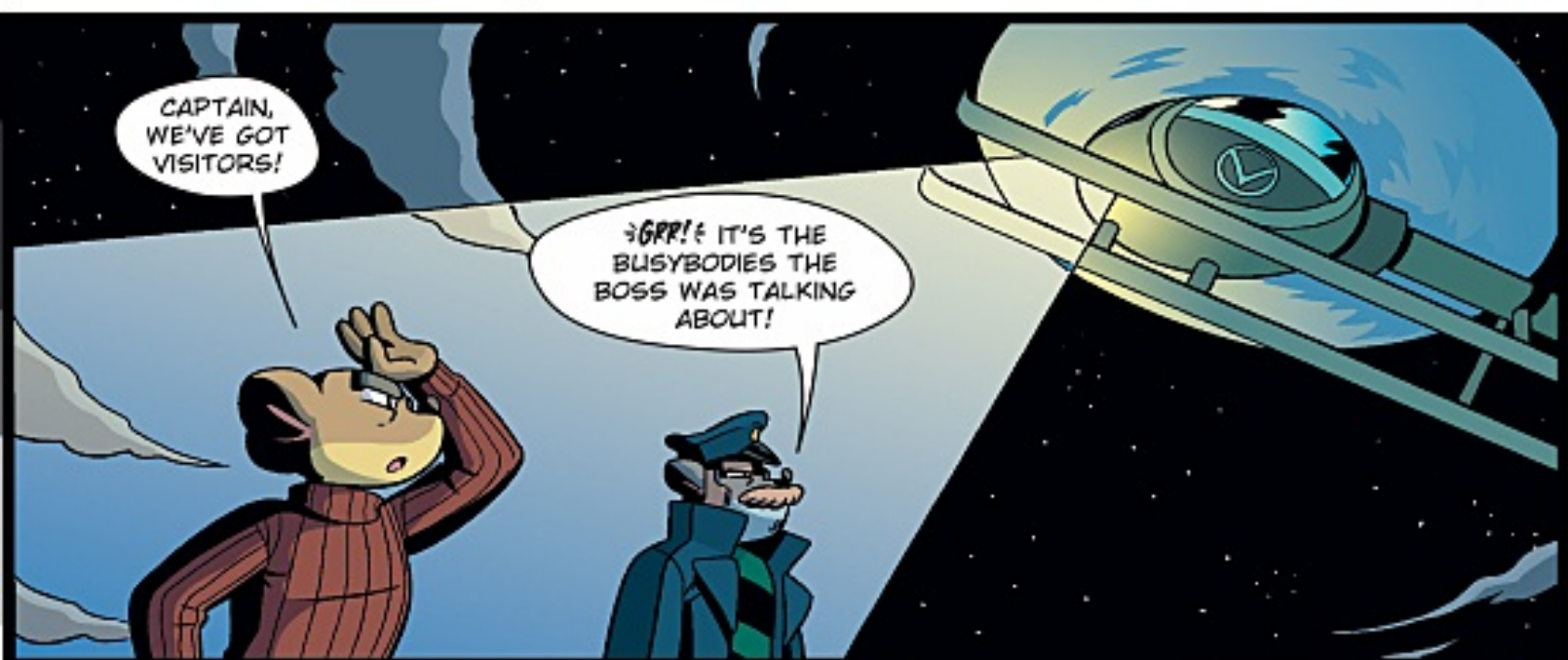
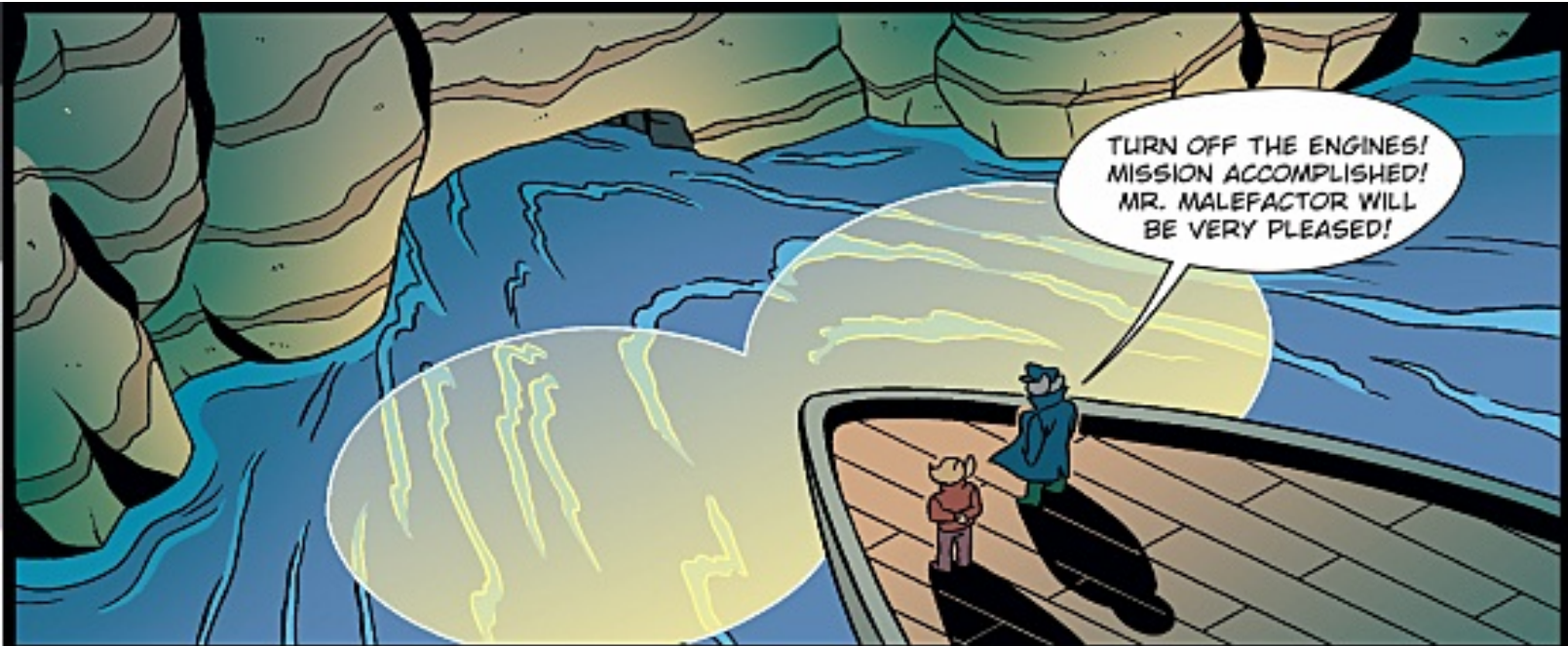
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT!
I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE OF
YOUR PESTERING! THERE,
I'LL GET A COUPLE OF
BITS HERE AND---



WHAT--?!





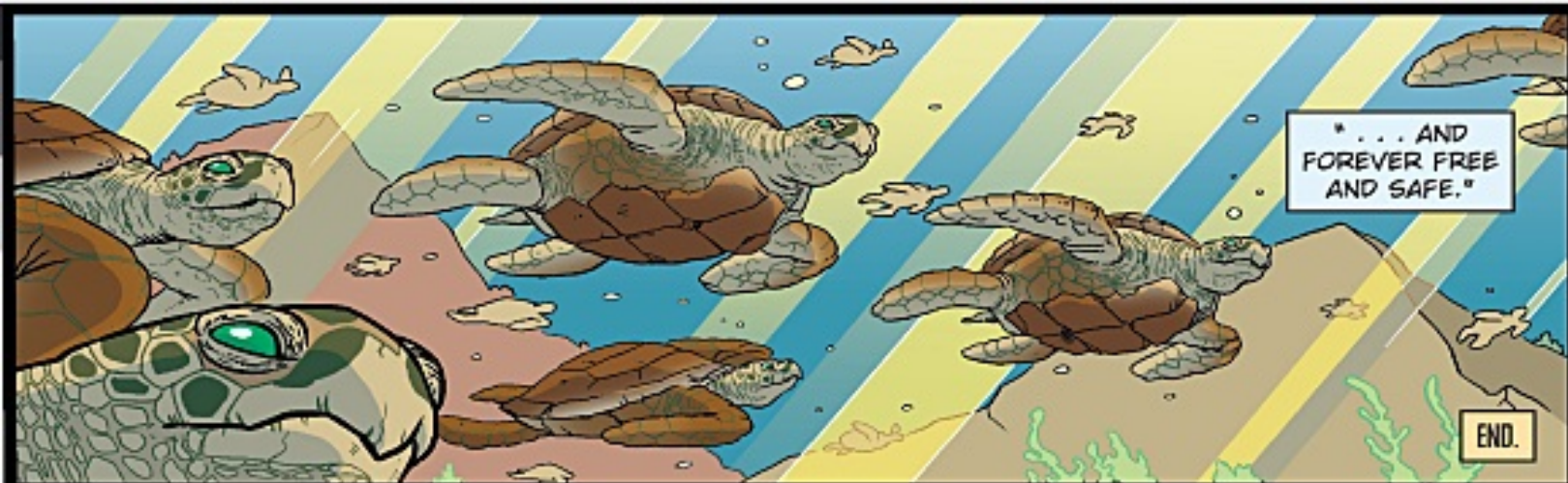






... BUT THE IMPORTANT THING
IS THAT EVERYTHING TURNED
OUT FOR THE BEST.

RIGHT, WHO WOULD'VE
EVER GUESSED ...



Watch Out For PAPERCUTZ™



Welcome to the socially-conscious, sixth THEA STILTON graphic novel from Papercutz, those friendly folks dedicated to publishing great graphic novels for all ages. I'm Salicrup. *Jim Salicrup*, Editor-in-Chief and Personal Shopper for Vissia De Vissen.

One of the most confusing things about this particular series of graphic novels, is that Thea Stilton rarely appears in it. Instead, we're treated to the adventures of the "Thea Sisters," yet none of these young women are actually related to Thea Stilton or each other! Now, if you've seen our previous volumes, you'll know that Nicky, Pamela, Violet, Colette, and Paulina all attend Mouseford Academy on Whale Island. It's here that they all take Professor Thea Stilton's journalism class. Because they admire Thea so much, they formed a group (or a sorority) that they call the Thea Sisters. *Now* it all makes sense, I hope.

Speaking of journalism, what exactly is that? Once upon a time, a journalist was specifically a reporter for a newspaper. As new forms of media came along, journalists could be reporters for radio, television, and now, the Internet. Generally, a journalist's job is to report the news. Unlike a television news anchor, who mainly reads the news, journalists are the ones who go to where the news is happening and write about what they see.

Recently, on May 19, 2016, one week after he retired, broadcast journalist Morley Safer passed away. Like millions of other viewers I admired Mr. Safer for his journalistic skills and his way of simply telling a story. He was very good at what he did. The 84 year-old Safer, was a journalist for 60 years, 46 of them on the highly-rated and respected CBS "newsmagazine" 60 Minutes. According to reports, he was inspired to become a "foreign correspondent" after reading the works of author Ernest Hemingway, who was a foreign correspondent. Hemingway was also novelist, short story writer, and lead quite an adventurous life that influenced many others in addition to Morley Safer.

Other than Clark Kent (mild-mannered reporter for a great metropolitan newspaper), I'm not sure if we are exposed to many fictional journalists these days. Back in 1941, the very first comics story written by legendary comics creator Stan Lee (Co-creator of *Spider-Man*, *the X-Men*, *the Avengers*, as well as creator of THE ZODIAC LEGACY, the graphic novels of which are published by Papercutz) was "*Headline Hunter, Foreign Correspondent*." That's how glamorous and exciting being a journalist was back then.

Now is a particularly difficult time for print journalists, as many newspapers are struggling to survive. (Don't worry, Thea Stilton, and her brother, Geronimo, are both secure in their positions - she's a special correspondent and he's the editor-in-chief - at the *Rodent's Gazette*.) With so much news reported on TV and the Internet for free, fewer people than ever before are buying newspapers. But now, journalists are finding exciting new ways to report on the news from all over the world, as technology has made it possible for information to travel faster and to reach more people than ever before.

Being a journalist is still an exciting and important career, and it's great fun to watch the Thea Sisters tackle environmental issues in their graphic novels. Who knows, maybe one day, we'll be watching journalists report on big stories, and find out it was the Thea Sisters who inspired them? (Do you have a nose for news?) In the meantime, enjoy the preview of GERONIMO STILTON #17 "The Mystery of the Pirate Ship" on the following pages, and be sure to keep an eye out for the next thrilling THEA STILTON graphic novel!

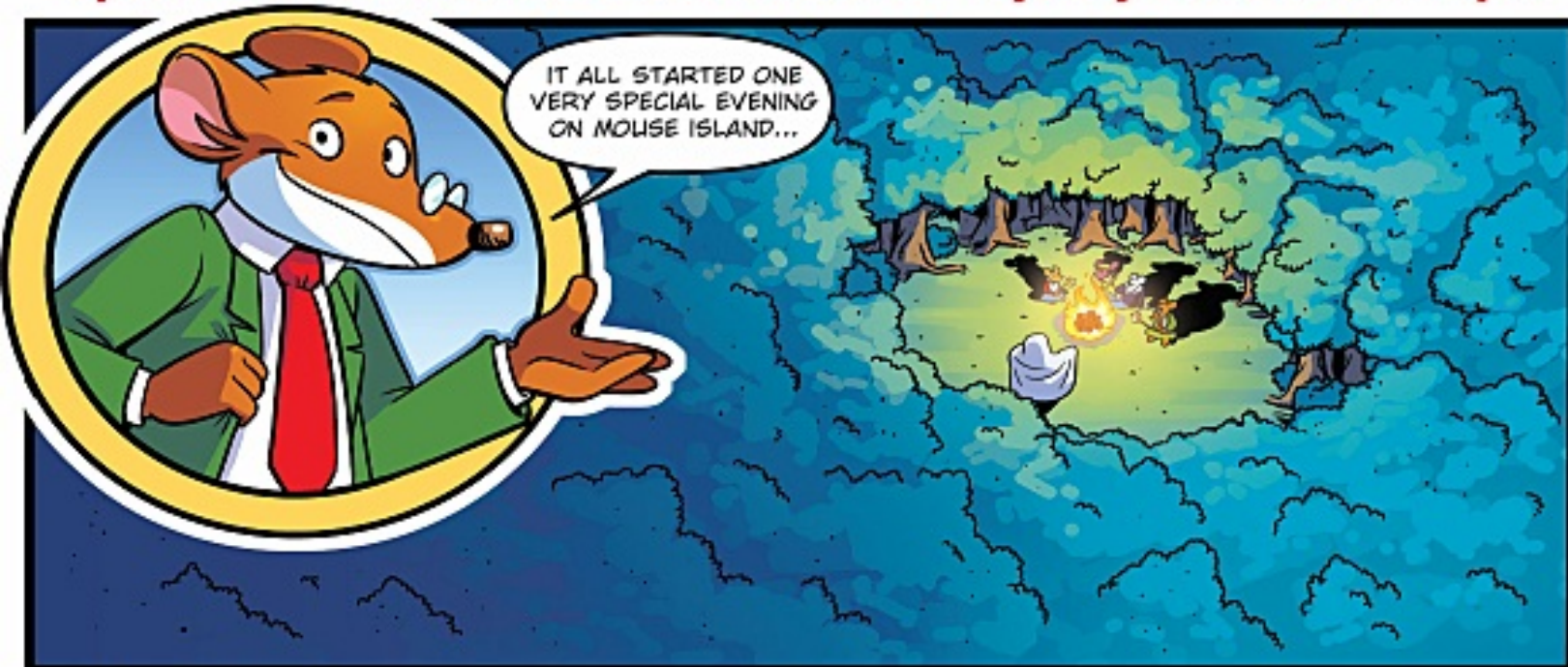
Thanks,

Jim



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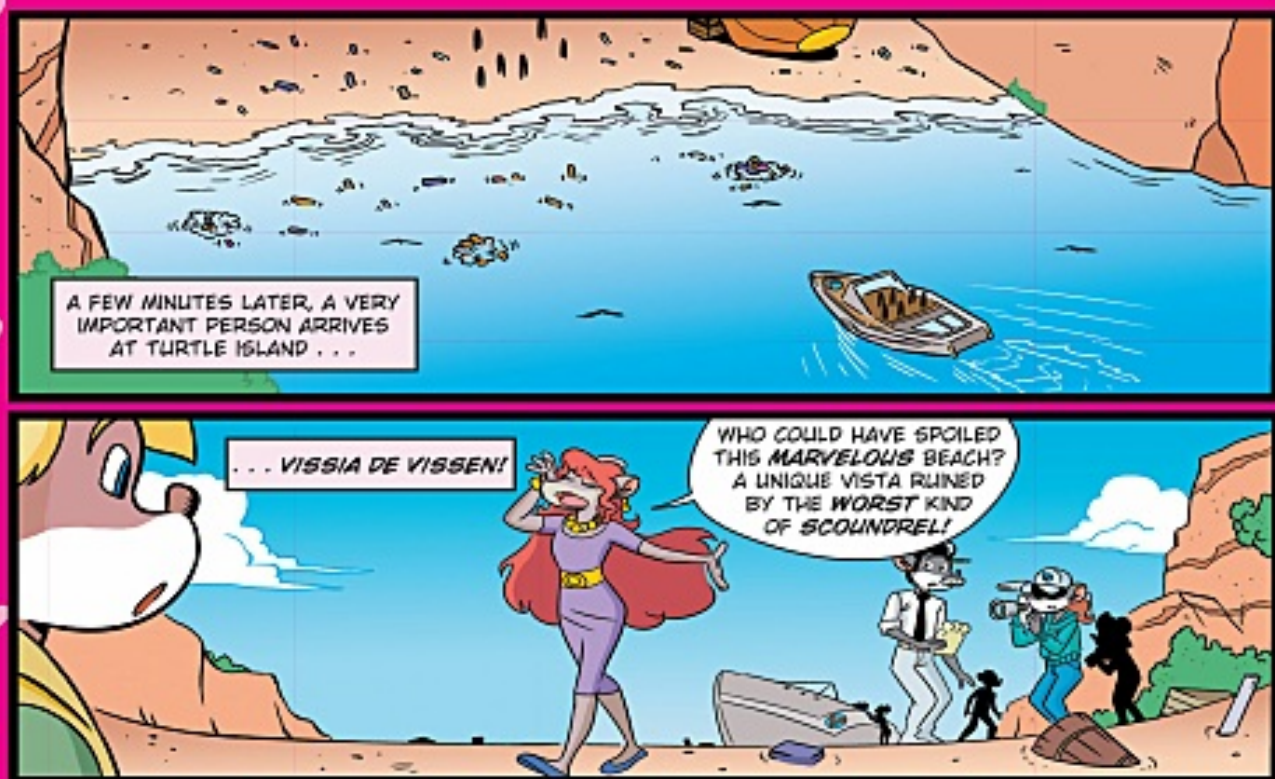




Don't Miss GERONIMO STILTON #17 "Mystery of the Pirate Ship"!

WHERE HAVE ALL THE TURTLES GONE?

Mouseford Academy students are taking a special hot-air balloon tour of Whale Island and beyond, but when they pass over Turtle Island, they see a lack of turtles and a whole lot of trash! And for once, the selfish Vissia de Vissen seems worried about this mysterious disappearance too! In order to solve this riddle, Colette, Nicky, Pamela, Paulina, and Violet will have to do the impossible - team up with Vissia de Vissen and her children Vic and Vanilla! Will they be allies - or are they still enemies?



The Thea Sisters are five fun, lively students at Mouseford Academy on Whale Island, who want to be real, live journalists. Between classes and friendships, love and small fits of jealousy, they find life at the Academy to be a never-ending adventure!



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